⊕ **AI** ⊕ **POLICY** ⊕ **POLITICS**

Silicon Valley's latest argument against regulating AI: that would literally be the Antichrist / This is a real thing Peter Thiel told a group of tech professionals recently.

by ⊕ **Tina Nguyen**

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Image: Getty Images

⊕ **Tina Nguyen** is a Senior Reporter for The Verge and author of *Regulator*, covering the second Trump administration, political influencers, tech lobbying and Big Tech vs. Big Government.

In a four-part series of religious lectures in San Francisco, Peter Thiel — yes, *that* Peter Thiel — has argued that the End Times are nigh and that a biblical Antichrist — yes, *that* Antichrist — will come to Earth in the form of onerous government regulations placed on science, technology, and AI.

These are, incidentally, areas where the tech billionaire, venture capitalist, and cofounder of Palantir has a vested financial interest.

Thiel, 57, has lately expressed a fascination with eschatology, or the study of the end of the world, taking a notably esoteric interpretation of biblical and philosophical texts. Last December, Thiel recorded a two-part podcast about the apocalypse and ancient prophecies with the Hoover Institution's Peter Robinson, where he hashed out what he called his "speculative thesis": Human technologies, such as scientific research and artificial intelligence, have reached a point that they could conceivably cause global and civilizational destruction. The Antichrist, Thiel argued, would take the form of a one-world government that promised to regulate these technologies.

"This is sort of where my speculative thesis is, that if the Antichrist were to come to power, it would be by talking about Armageddon all the time," he told Robinson. "It's the 1 Thessalonians 5:3. 'The slogan of the Antichrist is peace and safety,' which is nothing wrong with peace and safety. But you have to sort of imagine that it resonates very differently in a world where the stakes are so absolute, where the stakes are so extreme, where the alternative to peace and safety is Armageddon and the destruction of all things."

He added later that given its economic, military, and "somehow ideological" hegemony, the United States could itself be a contender for the Antichrist.

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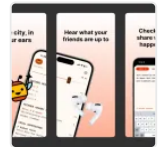NILAY PATEL TWO HOURS AGO | 💬 12

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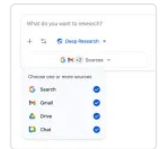JESS WEATHERBED 8:15 AM EST | 💬 2

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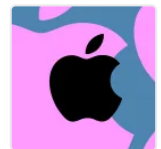

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